



'Free State' Elections



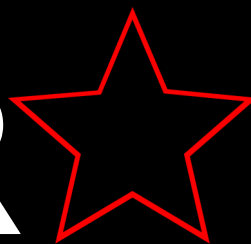
Pay Dispute at NI Water



United
Healthcare

Why we won't be Mourning a Dead CEO

BLACK STAR



ASSAD OUSTED

Karl Marx famously referred to the *coup d'état* of Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte in 1851 as history repeating itself, the 'first time as tragedy, the second time as farce'. The ousting of Bashar al-Assad is not quite the same, though it brings to an end the rule of his particular dynasty of Ba'athist regime thugs. Whilst celebrated by many Syrians across the world, not least in Northern Ireland, people would do well to be careful what they wish for. Despite the mass release of prisoners the group now in control, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) are unlikely to usher in a better dictatorship than the one removed. Many in the Rojava area, run by the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North East Syria, remain worried about the future and it may indeed strengthen their uneasy linkages with the United States as a convenient buffer zone in some shit show of grand strategy between the Americans and the Russians - with Israel already carving out a chunk for itself. Workers always finish last in such games and should have no part in them.

'We, as anarchists
and as
revolutionaries can't
do anything less
than celebrate one
tyrant less. Cheers
for that!'

**Têkoşîna Anarşîst, a
Rojava anarchist
group**

Irish election - press repeat!

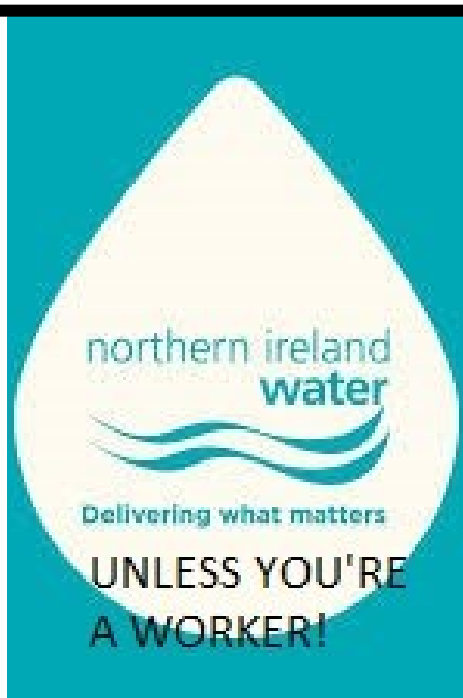


The Free State elections resulted in a business as usual outcome, which places Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael back in the driving seat, no doubt to be helped out in a few weeks' time by the Irish Labour Party and a motley collection of nutjob independents to form the 34th Dáil. Both the Shinnners and the Trots blamed the voters, of course, but homed in on the low turnout - down this time to 60% - as evidence of apathy. The fact that voter turnout in Irish elections has fallen by almost 10% in a decade does not suggest simple apathy, it suggests rejection and if you look at working class constituencies, like here in the North, it is lower again. People are sick, sore and tired of their fucking shenanigans, jobbery, junkets, bribery and corruption. Those are the things that enable them to continue to oil the wheels of their property-obsessed rotten wee neo-liberal economy to further grind down the workers and their quietest, state-opted trade union bureaucracy. Workers want liberation from that shite not participation in it. Organise! are encouraged by declining turnout not dismayed - Don't Vote! Organise!

Water workers' pay

Blink and you would have missed it, but workers at Northern Ireland Water announced and then called off their strike action within a day or so at the start of this month. It looks like they might finally get an increase though the offer of 5% and a one-off payment of £1,500 is hardly just reward for missing out on the other shit 'awards' offered to civil servants here and with whom they'll now have pay parity.

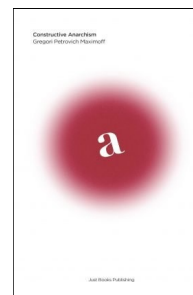
Apparently, both those represented by Unite and the GMB are considering the offer.



Just Books Publishing



Just Books Publishing, set up by the Just Books Collective, has so far published its first two titles.



The first is a reprint of Gregori Maximoff's *Constructive Anarchism*, to mark the 100th year of existence of the International Workers Association (IWA) the Anarcho-Syndicalist

international founded in Berlin in 1922.

isbn 9781739723705

£7.99



The second title, now with a new cover, is Nick Heath's *The Idea. Anarchist Communism: Past, Present and Future* - a welcome and new comprehensive work on anarchist communism,

this book seeks to rehabilitate the current of anarchist-communism. To make it better known and understood.

...a good substantial book, and much needed. Lucidly written, it provides a rich brew of engaging discussions of the 'Idea' (anarchist communism as a political philosophy), interesting vignettes of many individual anarchists, and a great historical account of the many anarchist communist organisations over the past 150 years...

(Brian Morris on *The Idea*)

isbn 9781739723712

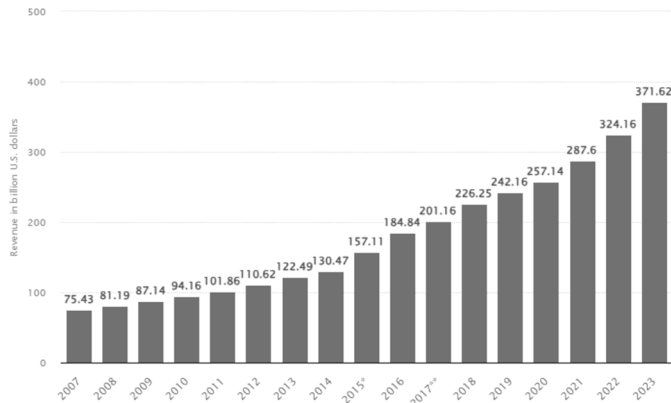
£15.00

Available from:

<https://organiseanarchistsireland.com/shop/>

Why we won't be Mourning a Dead CEO

Total revenue of UnitedHealth Group from 2007 to 2023
(in billion U.S. dollars)



Earlier this month, Brian Thompson, the executive director of UnitedHealthcare, was assassinated by a lone gunman. United Healthcare is a private multinational health insurance company based in Minnesota, USA. It is a company that, operating on ruthless capitalist principles generates higher profits - from the commodification of human health needs - than any of its competitors. For its late CEO it generated huge personal wealth. This psychotic capitalist model of health insurance, and health care based on it, is stripped of any empathy for the disadvantaged, the poor, and the sick. Make no mistake - this is the 'model' that the hollowing out of the NHS is pushing us into.

The CEO of UnitedHealthcare was killed outside a hotel in Manhattan. Going on social media networks the only people who seem appalled by his murder are parasites and psychopaths like himself. Overwhelmingly this has been seen as an act of revenge for the constant misery, bankruptcy, pain and death caused to far too many people in the pursuit of higher and higher profit from people's medical costs. United Healthcare was simply ahead of 'the game' in its ruthlessness in denying requests for assistance to enormous numbers of people, pushing them into debt and gambling with their own health and lives. They had amassed a revenue out of suffering of \$47.5 billion in the last year alone. Making it one of the most successful businesses in the industry of pushing massive numbers of people into debt, homelessness and death! One more

proof, if it was needed, of the utter incompatibility of improving the quality of human life with the capitalist principle of ever increasing profits.

Bearing this in mind it is not surprising that the man arrested and accused of this assassination, Luigi Mandione (26) - is celebrated worldwide as a hero who brought a crumb of justice to the victims of this system.

Organise! International Workers' Association does not believe that with individual actions it is possible to effectively achieve results in the fight for workers' rights and a better world. While fear may have been struck into the heart of many CEOs and capitalists the usual reaction to these individual acts is harsher repression. We believe that it is only in taking collective action in solidarity with each other that we can begin to struggle towards the improvement of society. However, considering the daily reality of war, genocide, the drastic deterioration of working conditions and living conditions, constant inflation, suppressed wages, constantly lying politicians, as well as the persistent breaking down of society for easier exploitation, individual violence against parasites like Brian Thompson and other political and capitalist criminals should surprise no one.

We, like the vast majority of working class and poor people will not waste a breath on regret or mourning for this dead CEO. Nor will we join in the demonisation of his assassin.

Meanwhile... in Ballymena



Thankfully storm Darragh saved us from 'Jingle Day' in Ballymena, which had to be cancelled, though we've the Santa run still to come. I don't know about you, but nothing is quite as Christmassy as a fancy big New Holland with lights pulling a slurry trailer through the town. God bless us, everyone!

Speaking of culchies, I see the Ulster Farmer's Union are hoping to ramp up the protests against Labour's plans to make farmers pay inheritance tax on properties over £1 million. They held meetings last month attended by all our politicians, who announced their support for the only union that really wields any real power in this wee part of the world and opposed making some of the North's wealthiest landowners pay their way. The press are suggesting that around half of all farms here could be affected, which shows the money that still lies in property. That reminds me, must ask Santa for a revolutionary re-distribution of land.

Get Involved: Help Build A Working Class Alternative.



Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland which is affiliated to the International Worker's Association as 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, and particularly the history and tradition of struggle epitomised by the IWA - the anarcho-syndicalist international. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985. We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier...

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork



affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Dublin, Lisburn, Monaghan, Newry, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We have a new Local in Formation in South Ulster. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid. Every member is an active member.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at <https://organiseanarchistsireland.com> and send an email to: organiseasi@gmail.com

